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I shall conclude with my earnest entreaty, that my most humble service may be presented to the Noble Members of the Royal Society, and remain

Honour'd Sir,

Your Humble Servant,

Anthony Van Leeuwenhoek.

IV. Reverendi D. Johannis Craig, *Epistola ad Editorem continens solutionem duorum problematum.*

Ad Eruditissimum Virum Dominum H. Sloane, M. D.
& R. S. Secretarium.

Mitto tibi, vir clarissime, solutiones, duorum Problematum; quibus solvendis operam dederunt (& etiamnum dant) Celeberrimi hujus ætatis Mathematici. Prius est de inveniendò Solido Rotundo, quod minimam in fluido patiatur resistantiam, ab incomparabili viro D. H. Newtono jam olim solutum; quod denuo nuper aggressi sunt, Illustrissimus Marchio Hospitalius, & Celeber. Jo. Bernoulli, ulterius exponere; quoniam Analysin suam suppressere voluit Dignissimus Newtonus. Posterius autem Problema est de invenienda Lineâ celerrimi descensus; quod ante hos quatuor annos omnibus (ut nosti) Europa Mathematicis à clariss. Jo. Bernoulli proponebatur, & jam sæpius solutum fuit. Ad meas solutiones quod attinet: Eas jam publici juris facio (non quòd me quicquam magni momenti præclaris eorum laboribus addere posse sperem, sed) ut majori easdem res tractandi varietate, ad majora Scientiæ illæ incrementa promoveantur. Et quamvis seriùs prodeat mea de Curvâ celerrimi descensus Analysis; magnâ tamen ejus simplicitate mora (ut spero) compensabitur. Qualem alii adhibuerint, nescio; cum nulla hujus solutio (nec quæ in vestris, nec quæ in Lipsiciis Actis edantur) ad manus meas adhuc pervenerit, præter Newtonianam, quæ Analysin, non exhibet. Si inter selectas tuas Collectiones Philosophicas, tenues etiam hæ nostræ loco aliquo dignæ videantur, habebis tibi devinctissimum,

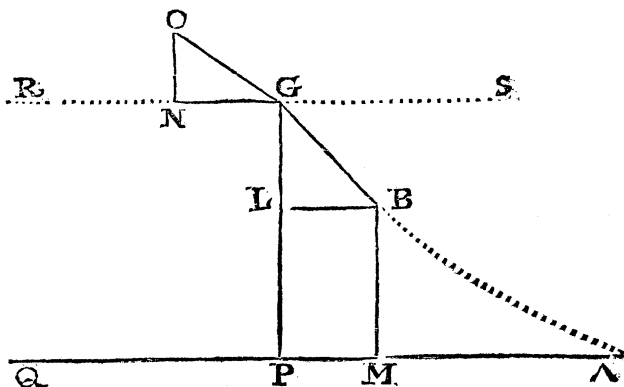
Gillingham, 21 Dec. 1700.

JO. CRAIG

Corol. 2. Resistencia in partem infinite parvam GB est æqualis Cubo lineæ GL diviso per Quadratum lineæ GB. Nam si omnes partes infinite parvæ in linea Ag ut bg supponantur æquales, tum Resistencia in bg per ipsam bg exprimi possit, id est, $E=bg$, adeoque $E=GL$ Ergo per Corollarium primum $e. GL :: GL^2. GB^2$; unde $e=\frac{GL^3}{GB^2}$ Q. e. D.

Corol. 3. Sit r radius & c circumferentia cujusvis circuli, dico resistenciam in conicam superficiem genitam à rotatione, lineolæ GB circa AI esse æqualem producto ex $\frac{CxBM}{r}$ in $\frac{GL^3}{GB^2}$

Nam resistencia in Conicam illam superficiem est æqualis omnibus resistenciis in lineolam GB, id est omnibus e; id est æqualis circumferentiæ circuli cujus radius est BM in e multiplicatæ; id est, resistencia in Conicam illam superficiem est æqualis $\frac{cxBM}{r}xe$; adeoque per Corol. 2. æqualis $\frac{cxBM}{r} \times \frac{GL^3}{GB^2}$ Q. e. D.



Problema x. Invenire Lineam curvam cujus rotatione producatur Solidum rotundum, quod (dum in medio fluido secundum axis sui directionem movetur) minimam patiatur Resistenciam.

Sint OG, GB duæ particulæ infinite parvæ in Curvâ quæsitâ, quæ circa AQ protata producat Solidum rotundum minimæ Resistenciæ. Ducantur BM, GP normales ad AQ, item BL, GN

GN ad AQ, & ON ad BM parallelae. Jam. $\frac{cxBMxGL^3}{rxGB^2}$ est

resistentia in superficie genitam a rotatione lineolæ GB circa

AQ, & $\frac{cxGPxON^3}{rxOG^2}$ est resistentia in superficie genitam simili-

liter ab OG per Cor. 3. Jam utraque hæc Resistentia simul

sumpta debet esse minima scil. $\frac{cxBMxGL^3}{rxGB^2} + \frac{cxGPxON^3}{rxOG^2}$

=minimæ. Adeoque in linea RS ita ad AQ parallela ut ON sit=GL, quærendum est punctum G ut hoc contingat; quod supponendo puncta O & B esse fixa facile invenietur per notissimam Maximorum & minimorum Methodum. Calculum

prosequendo devenietur tandem ad $\frac{BMxBL}{BG^4} = \frac{GPxNG}{OG^4}$; unde

patet $\frac{BMxBL}{BG^4} = \text{constanti}$; sic si abscissa AM vocetur x, &

ordinata BM, y, erit BL=dx, LG=dy (quam constantem in toto hoc calculo supposui) adeoque $BG^2 = dx^2 + dy^2$, unde

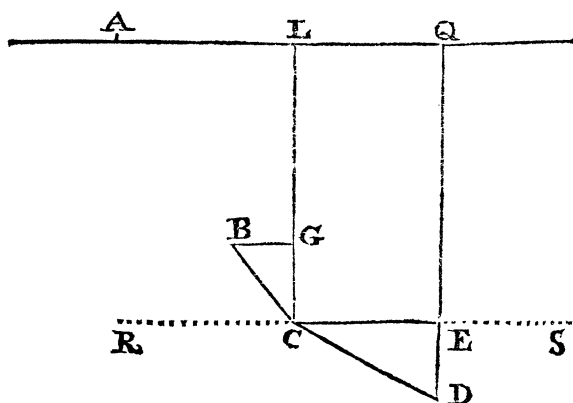
$\frac{ydr}{dx^2 + dy^2} = \text{constanti}$; Sit a linea quælibet constans &

proinde, ut observetur Lex homogeneorum erit $\frac{ydx}{dx^2 + dy^2}$

$= \frac{a}{dy^3}$ ut ab Illustriss. Hospitalio & celeberr. Jo. Bernouillio in-

ventum est. Et hic obiter clariss. Bernouillio significare visum est me plurimum delectari methodo suâ construendi curvas ex æquationibus differentialibus, in quibus deest altera ex indeterminatis x vel y, in Actis Lipsicis publicatâ mense Maio. Anni 1700. & per quam eleganter deduxit constructionem Curvæ modo quæsitæ. Nov. 1699. pag. 515.

Problema 2. Invenire Lineam Celerrimi Descensus.



Sint BC, CD duæ particulæ infinitè parvæ in curva quæsita. Jam Curva illa debet esse talis ut transitus a B ad D post casum a horizontali AQ fiat in tempore minimo; quærendum itaque est punctum in linea RS (ita ad AQ parallela ut differentia ordinatarum GC, DE sint æquales) tale punctum C ut hoc contingat.

Jam velocitas ejus in puncto C est \sqrt{LC} & velocitas in puncto D est \sqrt{QD} ; Ergo $\frac{BC}{\sqrt{LC}}$ est tempus descensus per BC, &

etiam $\frac{CD}{\sqrt{QD}}$ est tempus descensus per CD (per Prop. Irv. pag.

158 Newtoni) Ergo punctum C debet esse tale ut $\frac{BC}{\sqrt{LC}} + \frac{CD}{\sqrt{QD}}$

= minimo. Supponendo B & D esse fixa, sint constantes $GC=DE=m$, $LC=b$, $QD=p$; indeterminatæ $BG=u$,

$CE=z$; unde $\frac{\sqrt{m^2+u^2}}{\sqrt{b}} + \frac{\sqrt{m^2+z^2}}{\sqrt{p}} = \text{minimo}$; Ergo

$\frac{udu}{b\sqrt{m^2+u^2}} + \frac{zdz}{p\sqrt{m^2+z^2}} = 0$ sed $du = -dz$ (quia $v+z =$

constanti) Ergo $\frac{u}{b\sqrt{m^2+u^2}} = \frac{z}{p\sqrt{m^2+z^2}}$; unde patet

$b\sqrt{m^2+u^2} = p\sqrt{m^2+z^2}$

$\frac{u}{b\sqrt{m^2+u^2}} = \text{constanti}$; sit jam Abscissa $AL=x$; ordinata

$LC=y$; adeoque $BG=dx$, $GC=dy$, $BC=\sqrt{dx^2}$; sitque a

linea quælibet constans Erit $\frac{dx}{y\sqrt{dx^2+dy^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}$, unde $dx\sqrt{a}$

$=\sqrt{yx}\sqrt{dx^2+dy^2}$. Sed in omni Curva dx est, ad $\sqrt{dx^2+dy^2}$ ut

Subtangen^s ad Tangentem; Ergo talis est natura Curvæ

quæ sitæ ut ejus subtangens sit ad Tangentem ut \sqrt{a} ad \sqrt{y} .

Quam utique Cycloidis proprietatem esse sciunt omnes, quibus notum est Tangentem Cycloidis esse parallelam Chordæ arcus contermini in Circulo genitore, cujus Diameter est a , & cujus vertex deorsum spectat.

Et pari facilitate Curvam invenire possum Celerrimi Descensus pro qualibet alia gravitatis Hypothesi.